

HOPE TO THE NATIONS

- IF YOU TAKE PEOPLES HOPE AWAY, YOU HAVE THE BEGINNINGS, STIRRINGS AND DEVELOPMENT OF A REVOLUTION – illustrate Catholic priest in 1970's about love and debt

WE TALK ABOUT A FUTURE AND A HOPE - “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Prayer of confession example: Father, I know you have good plans for my life. You plan to prosper me and will not harm me. You give me hope and a future. And I claim your promise in my life in Jesus name. Amen.

- “To love is to risk not being loved in return. To hope is to risk pain. To try is to risk failure, but risk must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.”
BILL COSBY

- Hope is the most exciting thing in life and if you honestly believe that love is out there, it will come. And even if it doesn't come straight away there is still that chance
all through your life that it will.” – JOSHUA HARTNETT

HOPE IN THE NATION

- NO HOMES = NO HOPE (LITTLE GUY OVER THIS WEEKEND)
- HOPE REQUIRES THE HUMAN ELEMENT WHILE ON EARTH
- HOPE SOMETIMES REQUIRES DIVINE INTERVENTION – ELIJAH AND RAVENS
- WHEN YOU HAVE NOTHING BUT GOD

What happens when all your “go to” props have been taken away?

What do you do when all of your efforts to keep the peace in all your relationships seem to be totally misunderstood?

Have you ever gone not just the second mile with someone, but many miles and still you are not appreciated?

Have you sacrificially loved someone and all you get is resentment in return?

The things you have traditionally counted on to be part of your life and should be a part of your life have been consecutively removed one thing at a time, and you are

left with a totally dismal and dark future. What are you going to do when this becomes a reality?

- What happens when all of your negative points become the focus of attention and none or little of your positive points are given any focal point?
- You have tried to communicate your heart to your friends and it just seems to be going over their heads? Who do you turn to then?
- You want to have a biblical marriage, with all the benefits in place, and you find out that your partner has other ideas about what a biblical marriage should be. What do you do then?
- What do you do when you have forgiven 70 x 7 and nothing has changed?
- Read Habukkuk 3:16-19

HOPE FOR THE NATIONS

- Starts small, develops vision, cultivates the ground, develops into a beautiful plant
- Start low, go slow, catch fire, rise higher
- The nations are coming to us, what are we doing to reach them (illustrate cyberdonator)
- Illustrate painter from Long Beach CA
- We must get far more organic in the way we operate

BLESSED HOPE – Mt. 24

- No more church as usual
- Take a new look at what we do and what we do not do - WWJD
- Take stock of what our real priorities must be in this life
- We must ask ourselves what is practical in the light of tribulation days extending across the earth –challenge of being a Christian in the Muslim world
- How the news media would announce the end of the world:
- *Sports Illustrated*: "Game's Over!"
- *Ladies' Home Journal*: "Lose 10 Pounds by Judgment Day with Our New Armageddon Diet!"
- *Inc. Magazine*: "Ten Ways You Can Profit from the Apocalypse."
- CNN: "World Ends; Women and Children Most Affected."
- AOL: "System Temporarily Down. Try Calling Back in 15 Minutes."

CONCLUSION:

Church isn't where you meet. Church isn't a building. Church is what you do. Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of Jesus Christ. Let's not go to Church, let's be the Church."

Bridget Willard

Hope is the physician of every century, decade and year.

When you say a situation or a person is hopeless, you're slamming the door in the face of God.

~Charles L. Allen